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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

REVITALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FINANCING OF DEVELOPMENT

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

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* A/48/50.

Letter dated 28 May 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the press communiqué issued by the Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at its meeting held at Bali, Indonesia, from 10 to 13 May 1993 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 12, 50, 53, 56, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 100 and 112 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Nugroho WISNUMURTI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Indonesia

ANNEX

Press communiqué issued by the Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at its meeting held at Bali, Indonesia, from 10 to 13 May 1993

1. The Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Non-Aligned Movement (SMC) met in Bali, Indonesia on 10-13 May, 1993. The Meeting was convened in accordance with the mandate of the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries in Jakarta in September 1992. The SMC was established to relaunch the North-South dialogue and to strengthen South-South cooperation and was aimed at accelerating sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. The Meeting, which was attended by 73 countries, including 36 member countries of the SMC, was inaugurated by H.H. Mr. Soeharto, the President of the Republic of Indonesia and the current Chairman of the Movement. In observing that today's problems are global in nature and could not be resolved through short-term relief measures or piecemeal reforms. President Soeharto in his inaugural address stated that "... a new global partnership will be needed among all nations, both those in the industrialized North and those in the developing South, to fashion the necessary and effective solutions to these problems and thereby lift the world from its current economic disarray". The Meeting agreed to include the inaugural address by President Soeharto in its official records and considered it as valuable guidance for its deliberations.

2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Ali Alatas, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. The Meeting also elected other officers of the Bureau as follows:

a. Vice Chairmen : Burkina Faso, Cuba, Cyprus
b. Rapporteur : United Republic of Tanzania

3. Before delivering his address, the President invited the participants to observe a minute of silence in memory of the late President of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Premadasa. President Premadasa had been an active and ardent supporter of the Non-Aligned Movement and its principles, including the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

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4. The Ministers welcomed and gave their full support to the initiatives of H.E. President Soeharto, in his capacity as Chairman of the NAM, to have a meeting with the Group of 7 in its annual Summit scheduled to be held in July 1993 in Tokyo, in order to present the views and the new orientation of NAM on the reactivation of North-South dialogue and on international cooperation for development.

5. H.E. Dr. Luis Fernando Jaramillo, the Head of the Colombian Delegation, addressed the Meeting in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York.

6. Representatives of the following countries which are members of the Movement as well as members of the SMC participated in the meeting: Algeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia as Chairman of the Group of 77, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, DPR Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syria, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zaire, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The Representatives of Thailand, an observer of the Movement and as a member of the SMC participated in the Meeting.

7. Representatives of the following countries which are members of the NAM also participated in the Meeting: Benin, Brunei, Darussalam, Chile, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Myanmar, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Vietnam and Yemen.

8. Representatives of the following countries and international organization attended the Meeting as observers: Croatia, Mexico and the United Nations.

9. Guest delegations from the following countries were present in the Meeting: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic,

Finland, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

10. The Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Non-Aligned Movement was established in 1986 by the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, September 1-6, 1986, in Harare, Zimbabwe. The first substantive meeting of the SMC was held in HARARE from 4 to 7 July 1988.

11. This second Meeting took place against a background of global changes following the demise of the Cold War, which provided new opportunities and challenges for development and propelled economic issues to the very top of the international agenda. With this background in mind, the Ministers emphasized the need to relaunch the North-South dialogue, as called for by The NAM Tenth Summit held in Jakarta in September 1992.

12. The Ministers focused their deliberations on three broad themes: North-South dialogue, South-South cooperation and the role of the United Nations in international cooperation for development. The Ministers reiterated that for the North-South dialogue to be constructive it should be conducted on the basis of a clear recognition of genuine interdependence, mutual interest, common benefit, mutual respect and shared responsibility as well as respect for the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

13. Despite the existing differences in levels of economic development, the Ministers were convinced that both the North and South share a real and identifiable common interest in basic issues. For this purpose, they sought to identify areas of common interest, as well as areas for cooperation upon which rational and productive negotiations could be conducted. These include inter alia, seeking more transparent, predictable and equitable international trading and monetary systems; achieving more stable primary commodity markets, through remunerative

prices for producers and fair prices for consumers; obtaining a durable solution to the debt crisis based on a comprehensive , development-oriented approach; and ensuring sustainable global development through effective international cooperation in environmental protection based on equitably shared responsibility as called for by the UN Conference on Environment and Development, particularly by Agenda 21.

14. The Ministers emphasized that the most recent agreements on multilateralism and international cooperation for development, now evident in various commitments and documents such as the Declaration of the 18th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the IDS for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Cartagena Commitment of UNCTAD VIII, the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF) and the Declaration of the Paris Conference on LDCs, constitute a constructive basis for strengthening the global partnership for development.

15. Adequate flows of financial resources for development were underscored by the Ministers as a vital component for North-South cooperation. They considered that the developed countries could meet the agreed targets of 0.7% of their GNPs for development assistance, and 0.15% for the least developed countries. Additionally, they were of the view that foreign direct investment is an important source of development financing for the developing countries.

16. As to the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations, the Ministers affirmed that, on view of their urgency, they must be concluded as soon as possible in order to strengthen the rule-based multilateral trading system. Such a system should call upon all countries to eschew unilateralism in trade matters. The result of the Uruguay Round negotiations must be balanced and must take into account the needs of developing countries in areas such as agriculture and tropical products, textiles, TRIPs and services. There should be an evaluation of the results of the

Round from the perspective of the developing countries, as mandated in the Punta-del-Este Declaration.

17. The Ministers stressed that increased access to markets for their exports, especially in areas of comparative advantage, would in turn enable the developing countries to increase their purchasing power for imports from the North. In the area of commodities, they called for the implementation of the policy measures adopted by UNCTAD VIII on international commodity agreements and arrangements that would include the full and active participation of both producers and consumers.

18. According to the Ministers, it was in the best interest of both North and South that the crippling crisis of indebtedness should be resolved on the basis of a comprehensive and durable solution. In addition, without stabilized exchange rates there can be little predictability, a prime requisite for long-term investment. In this context, they recommended to the Chairman of NAM the establishment of an ad-hoc advisory group of experts on the external debt problem, as called for by the Jakarta Summit. They further entrusted the Chairman of NAM to take necessary steps to ensure the effective functioning of the advisory group of experts.

19. The Ministers recognized the key importance of enhancing the technological capacities of the developing countries. They asserted that to benefit productively from the transfer of technology from developed countries, investment is required for sustained development and capacity building, namely, in the areas of education, training, health, human resources development, technological infrastructure and development of sources of energy and power resources.

20. As to the critical economic situation in Africa, the Ministers recognized that the root causes of the problem, including, among others , an acute debt problem, depressed commodity prices and inadequate human resources development, cry out for concerted action. They called upon the African countries

and the international community to honour their commitments under UN-NADAF.

21. The Ministers recognized the formidable problem faced by the Least Developed Countries. They thus recommended that renewed efforts should be employed by all parties so as to fully implement the New Substantial Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. In the development partnership underlying the Programme, the LDCs have the primary responsibility for such implementation while their partners have undertaken supportive responsibilities.

22. In the area of South-South cooperation, the Ministers clearly stressed that collective self-reliance should be pursued. They were of the view that increasing trade and other forms of economic activities among the countries of the South would stabilize and strengthen their economies, to mutually benefit both the North and the South. Expanded economic cooperation among developing countries will impart stimuli to the growth and expansion of the world economy as a whole and thus yield corresponding benefits to the developed countries as well.

23. The Ministers emphasized the important contribution that the regional and sub-regional economic groupings and institutions in the South are making for the strengthening of South-South cooperation and the realization of practical and beneficial cooperation projects. They agreed to recommend that the Executive Heads of regional and sub-regional groupings and institutions meet in the near future to exchange their experiences as well as to explore new dimensions of enhancing South-South cooperation and that they submit a report to be considered at the next meeting of the SMC.

24. As called for by the Tenth Summit of NAM, the Ministers recommended to the Chairman of the Movement the establishment of an ad-hoc advisory group of experts on development issues, in order to recommend practical solutions land new orientation in the economic and social fields. They requested the advisory

group to study the recommendations contained in the Report of the South Commission, entitled "The Challenge to the South", and their possible implementation.

25. In addition, the Ministers also recommended that the forthcoming 7th Meeting of Coordinator Countries of the Action Programme for Economic Cooperation (APEC) should undertake a review and assessment of its areas of cooperation and develop action-oriented programmes that support the NAM's goal of collective self-reliance. The business and private sectors of the Non-Aligned countries should be encouraged to play a more effective role in planning and implementing APEC's projects.

26. The Ministers resolved to strengthen coordination between the NAM and the Group of 77, particularly in harmonizing APEC's projects with those of the Caracas Programme of Action (CPA) of the Group of 77. In this context, the Joint Coordinating Committee of the NAM and the Group of 77 (JCC) will be convened as soon as possible.

27. The critical food situation in many developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries and particularly in Africa, was of great concern to the Ministers. In this connection, they recalled the decision taken at the Tenth Summit of NAM to convene a Conference of Ministers of Food and Agriculture of the Non-Aligned and other developing countries. To assist the Ministerial Conference in its deliberations, the Ministers recommended to the Chairman of NAM the establishment of an ad-hoc advisory group of experts, as called for by the Jakarta NAM Summit to study in-depth all relevant aspects of the food security problem in developing countries and to make policy recommendations and proposals for action. They welcomed the preparatory work already done by the Chairman aimed at the establishment of the advisory group of experts, and entrusted the Chairman to undertake further steps to enable the advisory group to discharge its mandate. In this regard, they also felt the need for closer cooperation between food exporting and importing

countries, with priority given to humanitarian assistance during times of food shortage.

28. Considering the impact of the rapidly expanding populations could have on the development policies and programmes of the developing countries, the Ministers stressed the need for a greater exchange of information, techniques and modalities for implementing population policies and programmes. They welcomed the offer made by the Government of Indonesia to host a preparatory ministerial meeting of the NAM in October 1993 to formulate guidelines for preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in 1994. In this regard, they took note of the readiness of the Government of Indonesia to make the necessaqry preparations which could include expert group meetings and could field joint-need assessment missions.

29. The Ministers stressed that Technical Cooperation among the Developing Countries (TCDC) constitutes an essential means for strengthening the collective self-reliance of the developing countries by promoting the enhancement and the effective utilization of human resources and sharing of experiences and information on development. In this context, they agreed to establish a focal point where data on TCDC programmes of the various NAM countries would be collected and made available to all other developing countries.

30. In order to promote and strengthen South-South cooperation, the Ministers stressed the need to hold formal periodic meetings among the NAM members and other developing countries to exchange information on their respective potentialities, capacities and economic policies as well as their development schemes. In this context, they welcomed the offer by the Government of Indonesia to convene an expert group meeting on development schemes in September 1993 for generating self-reliance and for promoting the sustainable development of the developing countries. This meeting will be followed by an open-ended joint meeting of experts and decision-makers.

31. The need for increased participation of the developing countries in the decision-making processes of the UN was emphasized by the Ministers so as to ensure that the Organization could better reflect the concerns of all the peoples of the world. In this regard, they called for greater democratization and transparency in the work of the United Nations system and requested the Secretary-General to give top priority to his report on an "agenda for development" at the forthcoming 48th session of the General Assembly. In noting the urgent need to strengthen the role of ECOSOC, they considered that ECOSOC should be made to function as mandated under the UN Charter, rather than trying to improve on what the ECOSOC had been doing. Furthermore, the Ministers stressed the need to strengthen the relevant bodies of the United Nations as well as to improve its relationship with the specialized agencies such as the World Bank, the IMF and the GATT.

32. The Ministers decided that the SMC should hold periodic meetings as and when appropriate in order to continue to discuss, plan and monitor implementation of activities and projects in both the North-South and South-South context.

33. The Ministers expressed their deep appreciation for the excellent arrangements and the facilities provided, as well as for the warm and generous hospitality accorded by the Government and people of Indonesia.